

News Release

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Hon Gail Gago
Minister for State/Local Government
Relations
Minister for the Status of Women
Minister for Consumer Affairs
Minister Government Enterprises
Minister Ast Minister for Transport, Infrastructure & Energy

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CONSUMERS AUTHORITIES WEIGHING UP THE RIVERLAND

Consumer authorities are visiting the Riverland this week to make sure that local shoppers are getting what they've paid for, particularly when they're being charged a price per kilo, litre or metre.

Trade Measurement inspectors from the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) are targeting retailers in the region to make sure that they are complying with weights and measures laws.

Consumer Affairs Minister Gail Gago says regular checks are made right across South Australia to make sure that retailers are not ripping off consumers - or even themselves - by selling incorrect portions of products.

"It is against the law for traders to supply a lesser quantity than the consumer is being charged for," says Minister Gago.

"On the flip-side of this, traders using inaccurate scales may also be putting themselves at a disadvantage by giving away more of the product than need be."

Trade Measurement inspectors will focus on scales used by jewellers and pharmacists, and also on hardware and automotive parts traders that sell goods by length.

"Even a small error in weight or volume can represent a significant loss to the consumer or the trader - especially for more expensive goods such as gold," says Minister Gago.

"These inspections are about making sure that traders understand their legal responsibilities and that consumers can be confident that the quantities supplied by retailers are spot-on."

Trade measurement laws require that scales or measuring instruments used in trade are within a very tight range of accuracy.

Traders found to be using defective scales will be required to have the scales rectified by a licensed repairer and certified before they can be used again for trade.

Follow up visits will be conducted and traders found with defective scales risk penalties of up to \$20,000 under the *Trade Measurement Act 1993*.

To report any concerns about goods sold by weight or measure contact OCBA on 131 882 (local call cost) or visit 30 Kay Ave, Berri. More information about trade measurement is also available at www.ocba.sa.gov.au